

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 233237 TOSEC 270434

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KS, KN

SUBJECT: NORTH KOREA DECIDES TO WITHDRAW ITS UN RESOLUTION

FROM HABIB, LEWIS AND HUMMEL

1. GOVERNOR SCRANTON WILL BE REPORTING FULLY TO YOU THE BACKGROUND OF NORTH KOREA DECISION TO WITHDRAW ITS RESOLUTION FROM CONSIDERATION AT THIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND SUBSEQUENT ACTIONS IN NEW YORK TODAY.

2. ROMANIA'S UN PERMREP TOLD GOV. SCRANTON THIS MORNING THAT THE NORTH KOREANS HAD APPROACHED HIM OVER THE WEEKEND AND HAD ASKED THAT NORTH KOREA'S DRAFT RESOLUTION BE WITHDRAWN FROM THE UNGA PROVISIONAL AGENDA. LATER IN THE DAY, THE TEN COMMUNIST COSPONSORS AGREED TO SIGN THE LETTER OF WITHDRAWAL. THE COSPONSORS OF THE NORTH KOREAN RESOLUTION THEN MET AND DECIDED TO PRESENT AT 10:30 A.M. TOMORROW A LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REQUESTING WITHDRAWAL.

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3. GOVERNOR SCRANTON MET IN LATE MORNING WITH ROK FOREIGN MINISTER PARK, WHO IS IN NEW YORK, TO INFORM HIM OF THE DEVELOPMENTS. PARK WAS OBVIOUSLY PLEASED, SEEING IT AS A VICTORY FOR THE ROKG AND ITS SUPPORTERS, BUT SCRANTON WARNED

HIM "NOT TO GLOAT." (WE ARE CAUTIONING KOREANS NOT TO PREMATURELY LEAK THIS DEVELOPMENT.)

4. THE KOREA CORE GROUP MET AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL LATE IN THE DAY TO DISCUSS THESE DEVELOPMENTS. CORE GROUP MEMBERS WERE ENTHUSIASTIC OVER THE TURN OF EVENTS, AND WE ALL AGREED THAT IT WAS THE MOST FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENT AND OUTCOME REGARDING THIS TRADITIONALLY THORNY ISSUE. THE DISCUSSION CENTERED ON GAINING ASSURANCES FROM THE HOSTILE COSPONSORS THAT THEY WOULD NOT REINTRODUCE THEIR RESOLUTION AT ANY TIME THIS YEAR.

5. THE CORE GROUP IS TO MEET TOMORROW, SEPTEMBER 21, AT 11 A.M. TO CONFIRM ABOVE COURSE OF ACTION. FOLLOWING THAT ALL THE COSPONSORS OF THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION WILL MEET IN ORDER TO AGREE ON WITHDRAWAL OF THEIR DRAFT SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL OF OTHER SIDE'S RESOLUTION.

6. NEEDLESS TO SAY, WE ARE PLEASED BY THIS DEVELOPMENT. AS YOU KNOW, OUR EARLY OBJECTIVE WAS TO SECURE DEFERMENT OF KOREA ITEM AND SOUTH KOREANS WERE ANXIOUS TO AVOID A CONFRONTATION. FACT THAT NORTH KOREA AND ITS FRIENDS WERE FORCED TO TAKE INITIATIVE IN APPROACHING US IS PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT INDICATING THEY REALIZE THEY HAD NOTHING TO GAIN IN CONFRONTATION THIS YEAR AS A RESULT OF OUR STRENUOUS EFFORTS IN THE KOREAN QUESTION. IF QUESTION IS WITHDRAWN FROM AGENDA, WE WILL HAVE SECURED NON-CONFRONTATIONAL OUTCOME IN MANNER CLEARLY FAVORABLE TO US AND TO ROK. THIS WILL CREATE AN EVEN BETTER ENVIRONMENT FOR THE KOREA SECTION YOU CONTEMPLATE IN YOUR UNGA SPEECH, ON WHICH WE WILL BE CABLING SEPARATELY.

ROBINSON

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